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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Ronghua Wei et al.

Filed: March 26, 2004

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR FORMING A NITRIDE LAYER
ON A BIOMEDICAL DEVICE

Serial No.: 10/811,485

Group Art Unit: 1762

Examiner: Unknown

Atty Dkt: SWRI:003 (3020)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.8, I certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a first class, postage prepaid envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313 on the date below:

10-4-04
Date

Oliveri Ferrara
Name

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313

Sir:

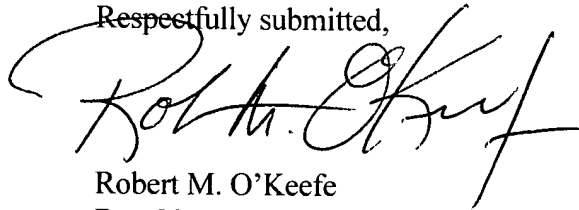
Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98, it is respectfully requested that this Information Disclosure Statement be entered and the document(s) listed on attached Form PTO-1449 be considered by the Examiner and made of record.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R §§ 1.97(g),(h), this Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made, and is not to be construed to be an admission that (a) the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b); and/or (b) that the information cited is, or is considered to be prior art.

The present Information and Disclosure Statement is being filed prior to the receipt of a first Official Action reflecting an examination on the merits, and hence is believed to be timely filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b). No fees are believed to be due in connection with the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement, however, should any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be deemed necessary for any reason relating to these materials, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct said fees from Deposit Account No. 10-1205.

Applicant respectfully requests that the listed document(s) be made of record in the present case.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert M. O'Keefe", written over a horizontal line.

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**Form PTO-1449** (modified)

List of Patents and Publications for Applicant's

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

(Use several sheets if necessary)

Atty. Docket No.
SWRI:003 (3020)Serial No.
10/811,485Applicant
Ronghua Wei et al.Filing Date:
March 26, 2004Group:
1762U.S. Patent Documents
See Page 1Foreign Patent Documents
See Page N/AOther Art
See Page N/A**U.S. Patent Documents**

Exam. Init.	Ref. Des.	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date if App.
	A14	4,968,006	11/6/90	Oliver	266	78	
	A15	5,079,032	1/7/92	Oliver	427	38	
	A16	5,383,934	1/24/95	Armini et al.	623	16	
	A17	5,859,404	1/12/99	Wei et al.	219	121.43	
	A18	6,306,175	10/23/01	Dearnaley et al.	623	23.11	
	A19	6,491,800	12/10/02	Kirkpatrick et al.	204	192.34	

Foreign Patent Documents

Exam. Init.	Ref. Des.	Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	Translation Yes/No
	B1						

Other Art (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

Exam. Init.	Ref. Des.	Citation
	C1	

Examiner:**Date Considered:**

EXAMINER: initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.